

# EDGE

**Nether Edge Neighbourhood Newsletter**

**May 2025**



**The Nether Edge Neighbourhood Group**  
was set up in 1973 with the following aims:

To improve the conditions of life especially of those living or working in the areas of Brincliffe, Nether Edge and Sharrow in Sheffield, without distinction of sex or race, or of political, religious or other opinions, by associating with local authorities, voluntary organisations and residents in a common effort to advance our education, to improve the environment and to provide facilities in the interest of social welfare for recreation and leisure time activities.

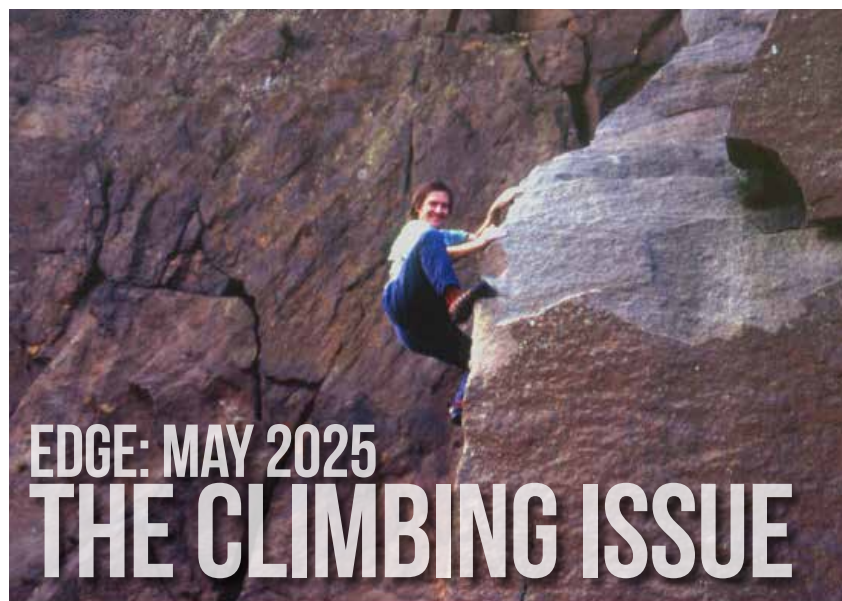
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not necessarily those of the group**

## EDGE MAY 2025

This issue of EDGE was edited by the Edge Editorial Board  
Design & artwork: Stephen Houfe (stephenhoufe@gmail.com)

If you want to contribute to the June edition, please contact the EDGE Editorial Board – nengeditorialboard@gmail.com by 12th May at the latest



Cover photo: Richard Heap at Gogarth, Anglesey in North Wales

Above: Former Nether Edge climber Johnny Dawes in Millstone Quarry (Photo Richard Heap)

### **NENG Committee Members**

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**Stephen Houfe** (EDGE Editorial Board)

**Kate West** (Family Voice)

**Kate Carruthers Thomas**

**Chris Hill**

**Faith Salih** (Our Shared Streets)

**James Almond** (Our Shared Streets)

**Helen Ryall** (Friends of Chelsea Park)

**Sue Chantler** (Friends of Chelsea Park)

To contact individual members of the committee or for contact details of the various sub-groups, please go to the NENG website :  
[www.netheredge.org.uk/](http://www.netheredge.org.uk/)

## **EDITORIAL**

### **Kevin Hickey**

I think the cover gives it away with regards to what the editorial board have focussed their attention on for this edition of the EDGE. We are so impressed with the various levels of skill and agility of the climbers who live in Nether Edge and are involved with the sport for all sorts of reasons. I think they are very brave and intrepid, and they talk about climbing with an all-consuming love and passion. At the other end of the scale, we hear about those groups who are involved with walking netball and football, which sound like great fun! There are good news items with positive updates on the Pocket Park and the redevelopment plans at the Abbeydale Picture House, which also sound terrific. There is the usual sprinkling of stories of kindness and support like the Pets at Rest Memorial Bench and the new Street Library established on Meadowbank Avenue and the Assist article 'Standing Together in Nether Edge' which thanks the community for its generosity. The Archer Lane allotment Garden appears to be taking shape and worth a visit, and our local osteopath, Pooja Guria talks about how she came to be working in Nether Edge. However, the news of the plan to demolish Clifford School for redevelopment will be an area of concern for many. We thank you for your letters and comments and news updates. Please keep them flowing.

**We always welcome new members, whether you want to catch up with local news, get involved in any of our groups, or just support our work. Membership costs £10 per year and you will receive ten editions of The Edge - the NENG newsletter.**

*For further details email ken.lambert227@gmail.com, visit our website [www.netheredge.org.uk](http://www.netheredge.org.uk) or scan this QR code*





## CLIFFORD SCHOOL

Following Sheffield City Council's appalling decision last November to grant permission to demolish most of historic Clifford School on Psalter Lane, Hallamshire Historic Buildings applied to Historic England for listing in a last-ditch attempt to save it. We've just learnt that bid has been unsuccessful, so now the 1884 and 1896 buildings to the rear will be lost and the 1832 school buried in extensions larger than the building itself. The Council ignored the advice of its own Conservation Advisory Group and overlooked the detailed history provided by HHB to allow a scheme that provides only four homes.

*Robin Hughes, Hallamshire Historic Building Group*

## ABBEYDALE PICTURE HOUSE UPDATE

When True North Brew Company took on Abbeydale Picture House, we knew we were stepping into something special. Now, with full access, we're keen to start bringing our vision to life. Once we got under the surface, we broke the building down into sections—what we could renovate now to get it back open and trading, and what needed a longer-term plan. Given the building's heritage and listed status, no work can begin until we have the proper planning permissions in place. This means our timelines and reopening dates remain flexible.

One of the biggest opportunities is the former ballroom, more recently known for being the Shuffle Shack room. It's a huge space with so much potential, and we want to transform it into something inviting, social, and open daily for the local community to enjoy. Our vision? A tasteful pool lounge and bar where people can get delicious food and drinks, sit comfortably, and play pool in a relaxed, welcoming environment.

Then there's the bar area. We want to restore some of its original style and elegance while ensuring it remains a place for late-night dancing and socialising on Abbeydale Road. Our focus is on creating a safe, enjoyable space that reflects the building's history while bringing it back to life for modern audiences.

We're aiming to reopen some of these spaces in the summer, but we know this process requires patience. Respecting the building's heritage and working within the regulations that protect it is our priority, so we'll move at the pace it allows. Further Information: [APH@truenorthbrewco.uk](mailto:APH@truenorthbrewco.uk)

*Jane Smith*

## NEW STREET LIBRARY IN NETHER EDGE



Did you know that there is now a new library on Meadow Bank Avenue? It was made and installed by Barry Johnson who got the idea from seeing the nearby library in Shirle Hill, one of a few in the Nether Edge area.

Meadow Bank Avenue's residents gave their support to the idea. Barry's goal was to forage all the materials and he succeeded in this, thanks to many of the Avenue's residents. Barry says that these libraries are easy to make, although one does have to attend to safety features such as avoiding the use of glass and replacing this with acrylic sheet and working out how to prevent water penetration and damp. Barry tells us that the library is well used and he has met a lot of new people as a result of making it.

## REUNION



In the September 2024 edition of EDGE our NENG committee member, Faith Salih, wrote about the experience of inviting a film crew into her home. Her house was used as one of the sets for the Sheffield based drama, Reunion. That drama is now available to view and if you missed the four episodes on BBC1 you can watch it on i-player. As you watch you may well recognise a number of places in Sheffield. The drama is ground breaking in that it is bilingual spoken word and BSL, featuring a number of deaf actors, including Rose Ayling-Ellis. It was one of the Times Culture Magazine's Critic's Choices.

## CANNABIS FACTORY IN NETHER EDGE

Right under our noses. Growing cannabis in empty residences has become more common. Using UV lamps and other equipment a crop of the narcotics can be produced in a domestic setting. Police have used different methods to detect the activity including using heat detectors to identify anomalies and investigating electricity consumption. So the law breakers adopt other techniques. On a quiet cul de sac in Nether Edge, road works reveal the attempt to bypass the electric meter by drawing straight from the main supply. This is an incredibly dangerous operation, not only for the perpetrator but also for neighbours. The crime was first discovered when the owner of the empty house came home to discover the locks had been changed. The locksmith advised calling the police.

## PETS AT REST MEMORIAL BENCH



The memorial bench that Pets at Rest donated to Chelsea Park was installed on 10th April. This park holds a truly special place for its dog-walking community, and we wanted to offer this bench as a spot to pause and remember all the beloved dogs who have brought so much joy and laughter to this shared space over the years. We hope it stands as a lasting tribute to the cherished memories created here.

The inscription reads: "In loving memory of all the dogs who have played in Chelsea Park. Remember them fondly."

We hope it provides a comforting spot and a moment of reflection for everyone who has loved and lost a loving pet. Here is a photo of my Golden Retriever, Lumin, visiting the new bench. We sat for a few moments and spoke about our last dog, Puddle, who also loved playing in Chelsea Park.

*Dan Stones*



# LETTERS

EMAIL: [NENGEDITORIALBOARD@GMAIL.COM](mailto:NENGEDITORIALBOARD@GMAIL.COM)

## INTRODUCING JAMES ALMOND A NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER



My first memory of Sheffield was the seemingly giant Tinsley cooling towers that we drove past on the way down from York to stay with my grandparents near London every summer. The first time I actually set foot in Sheffield was many years later arriving with a friend on the train for a university open day. We walked from the station up to the university through town, everyone we met was friendly and it just happened to be a lovely sunny day too. Decision made.

Since arriving as a student almost twenty years ago I've not really looked back and now call Sheffield home. I met my wife at university and after we finished our studies we decided to move on from our student life in Crookes and search for somewhere to live around Ecclesall Road. Not having much luck we broadened our search and found an unusually large ground-floor flat in a Victorian villa on Thornsett Road. Without much thought to the enormous single-glazed sash windows and draughty floorboards, we signed there and then and became residents of Nether Edge. The upstairs flat moved out the week we moved in and nobody else replaced them. We got quite used to having the run of the place!

We've since moved around Nether Edge and have settled up near Brincliffe Edge. Our two children were born here and we can't really imagine living anywhere else. Having the park, the woods, the allotments, the trees, the tennis club, the feeling of community and, of course, the Nether Edge Market on our doorstep makes it a pretty special place to live.

I've always been a keen cyclist and with Sheffield being the UK's largest village I often find myself walking or cycling to see friends or to get to the shops. You might even see me and my children out on our cargo bike. Recently it has felt less safe to do these things. Cars are travelling faster and the pavement isn't just the domain of the pedestrian any more. Perhaps it's just trying to walk two tired children home from school which makes it feel worse. But soon (and sooner than I might like!) those children are going to want to travel around Nether Edge and the wider Sheffield area on their own. I opted to co-chair the Our Shared Streets group with Faith to hopefully address some of the issues that are reducing the quality of life for residents of Nether Edge and to make travelling in and around the area safer and more equitable for all.

Dear EDGE,

Thank you for another excellent issue of EDGE.

The focus on the Miners' strike inevitably led me to my own memories of that divisive time. I was a social worker in Sheffield and my union, NALGO, drew a levy to support miners' families. We had good relations with the miners' wives' organisations and I also remember working with 'Police Watch' as an independent observer. We would go out in the middle of the night into a South Yorkshire that looked how I'd imagined East Germany, with a massive police presence, frequent halts for intimidating questioning, and barbed wire strewn over many roadways, so we were constantly diverting.

That time was the nearest to civil war that I've experienced in this country, but the power was hugely in favour of the Establishment. My wife and I were so disgusted by the pro-Thatcher bias of the BBC that we refused to pay our licence and went without TV for the best part of a year - you can imagine the kids weren't best pleased! I'm surprised that the issue of the undisguised bias of the state broadcaster has not, as far as I am aware, ever been properly investigated.

Yours sincerely,

**Mark Doel**

*Psalter Lane*



Photograph: © Martin Jenkinson Image Library

Dear Editor,

Just a couple of comments about the letter in April's Edge about libraries.

Nearly half of the libraries are run by Sheffield City council - including Highfield, the writer's local library, which is thriving.

I agree that councillors could do more to promote and support the use of our libraries - but unfortunately we can't ask them to do it for elections this May. There are none in Sheffield this year.

Kind regards

**Kathryn Rangeley**

*Address supplied*



# WALKING NETBALL

**'AN EXPERIENCE THAT GIVES ACCESS TO A WHOLE WORLD OF CONNECTION, LAUGHTER AND FUN'**



Every Thursday at 1.00 pm a group of women of varying ages meet at the Pearson Gym on Broomgrove Road. We are led by Christie from Parkhead Netball and her co-leader Anna. Our warming up exercises are a series of games, which get us moving and sometimes challenge our mental agility. It's all done in a very lighthearted way and we spend a lot of time laughing. We usually play a short game - 20 or 30 minutes by which time we're all exhausted and go up to the cafe for a cuppa and chat.

If, like me, you are not particularly agile or well coordinated or young, this might be the game for you. I, like lots of those who come, hadn't played netball since I was at school and I wasn't good at it then!

If you fancy joining us, come along on a Thursday and give it a try. You'll be very welcome.

*For more details [whitechristie3@gmail.com](mailto:whitechristie3@gmail.com)*

# WALKING FOOTBALL

**Graham Nield**

Did you ever play football in your younger days, enjoyed playing the game and wondered whether you would ever have a kick around again, especially if you have had health issues?

My experiences playing at Concord Sports Centre, Sheffield Hallam University, St. Georges Park by Graves Leisure Centre, and U-Mix have been very positive both indoors or outdoors and have always been good fun and sociable. There are other Sheffield venues.

If you expect it to be a bit of a joke, then I would encourage you to try it and you will be pleasantly surprised about the fitness level required. Teamwork, individual skills, tactics, sportsmanship all come into play. The game is played at 5-a-side, 7-a-side and 11-a-side, or split up by whoever turns up. Without the aggression of non-walking football, but still competitive, this is a different game.

Walking football is a non-contact sport where players must keep one foot in contact with the ground at all times. Tackling is allowed, but without any contact. Heading the ball is not allowed. Running or jogging on or off the ball is not permitted by any players (including goalkeepers) and would usually result in an indirect free kick being awarded.

Effective passing is crucial. Accurate, quick passes keep the game flowing and reduce the chance of losing possession. Players should practice short, precise passes and learn to anticipate their teammates' movements, and use of the inside of the foot for passing improves accuracy.

It is a sport that people at all fitness levels can play. You will be surprised by what skills you need. The game operates at local, national and international levels with an associated level of competitiveness. Walking football referees go through an FA training programme and help ensure that everyone has a safe and enjoyable experience. I have played where the referees have not had the proper training, and this impacted badly on the game. Originally designed to be played by men over the age of 50 and women over the age of 40, walking football can be played by any age group.



## WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

At a recent Open Meeting at the Union Pub, NENG History Group member, Margaret Blenkinsopp regaled us with the fascinating story of her great grandmother's upbringing and life in the Yards of King's Lynn, home to fishermen whose large, and sometimes unruly, families lived cheek by jowl. Her story included the low point of imprisonment with hard labour and the high point of singing traditional folk songs to Ralph Vaughan Williams.

If you have an interesting family story why not share it at our short talks at the Union Pub?

Our open meetings are open to all, and are an opportunity for anyone interested in history to meet with like-minded people.

There's no agenda. Our meetings normally feature 2 or 3 speakers who give short talks about topics they have either researched or just happen to know about. Talks don't have to be about Nether Edge or Sheffield, just historical - in past meetings we have heard about the history of a house on Psalter Lane, the Kray Twins, string stories, feminist family histories, the life of a Nether Edge artist, the mystery of a family painting and many more.

If you think you would like to give a talk, get in touch with us (details below) or just bring it along to the meeting.

Whether you want to give a talk, or are just coming to listen and discuss, you will be very welcome - and drinks and food are available from the bar as normal.

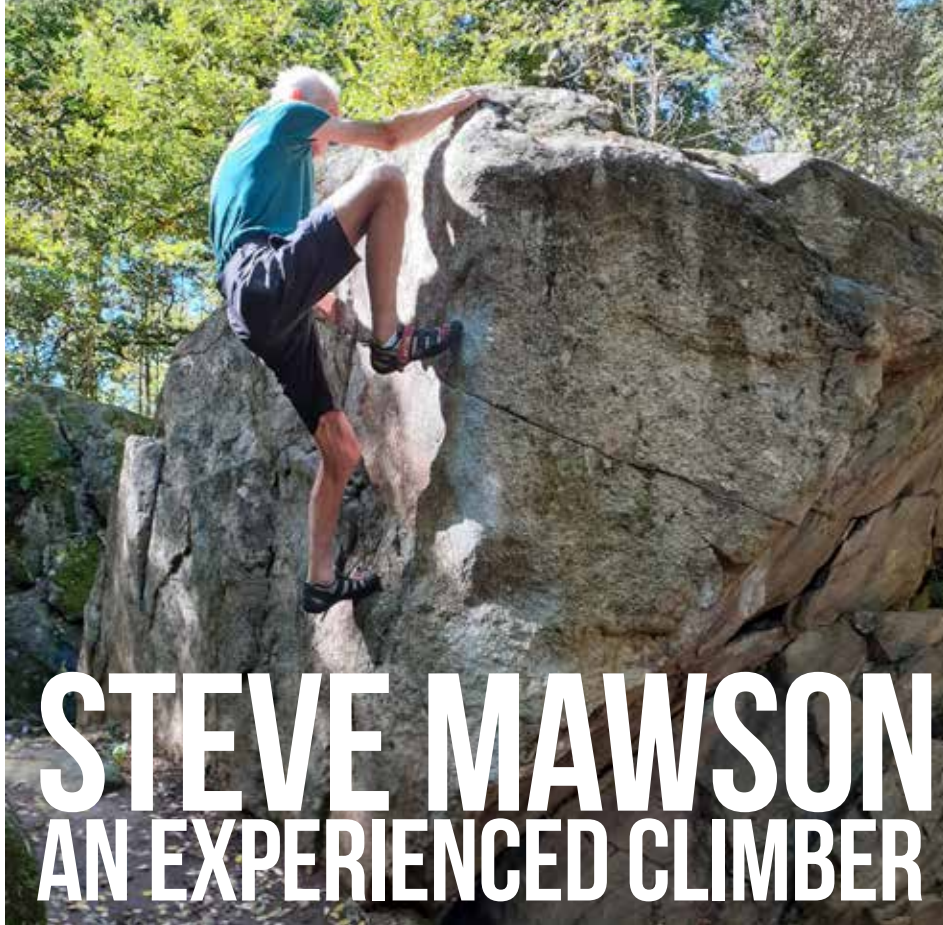
Contact us at [contact@netheredgehistory.org.uk](mailto:contact@netheredgehistory.org.uk) to join our email list. Visit our website at <http://www.netheredgehistory.org.uk/nehg/> and follow us on Facebook: Nether Edge History to find out about future activities.



# CLIMBERS OF NETHER EDGE

*Photo - Australian visitor, John Saxon tackling a route in Millstone Quarry (Photo: Richard Heap)*





# STEVE MAWSON

## AN EXPERIENCED CLIMBER

**Emma Whiteley**

**E.W.** When did you first start climbing and why?

**S.M.** I first started climbing in 1964 with friends from Bingley Grammar School, where we were students. We were all keen walkers, rugby players and loved climbing trees. One friend had read John Hunt's *The Ascent of Everest* and was inspired to try rock-climbing and mountaineering. Our first experiments were at Baildon Bank, near Bingley, then we went on holiday in Snowdonia camping below the mountain, Tryfan. We only had a basic rope, old clothes with holes in them, plimsolls or Vibram-soled boots and a lot of youthful enthusiasm. There were no climbing instructors then so we just made it up as we went along. I came to live in Nether Edge in 1977 because of the climbing in the Peak District and I've never looked back.

**Why do you love climbing so much?**

I enjoy the challenge of working out how to get to the top of a rock face or mountain. It's a great problem-solving exercise! The adrenaline rush you get while climbing is addictive. Also I love being outdoors in beautiful, wild places.

**Why is Sheffield the "climbing capital" of the country and why is the Peak District so important for climbing?**

From Sheffield you have easy access to an abundance of climbing venues, notably the Peak, but it's not too far from the Lake District or North Wales. I think the Peak District is so popular because of all the craggy outcrops like Stanage Edge. Gritstone rock, which is found in much of the Peak, is great to climb because of its crack-

lines and rough texture which makes it easier to grip. Since the Mass Trespass on Kinder Scout in 1932 access to the many Edges has improved considerably. J.W. Puttrell was a pioneer rock climber from the Peak District. He was one of the first men to record his climbs there although there were others in Austria and Bavaria doing the same. The Peak District has always been at the forefront of climbing.

**Do you need lots of expensive equipment nowadays for climbing?**

When I started there was *virtually no equipment available for climbers. We had ex-War Department carabiners and slings of rope. We used pebbles or nuts (from nuts and bolts) as wedges to help us climb up crack-lines. Equipment has gradually become more technical, readily-available and expensive but the sport is much safer because of this. You need rock shoes which were developed by the French to grip the rock better, a harness, helmet, metal wedges, camming devices, carabiners and a good rope. You can get great information now about where to climb and how to ascend the rock faces from special guide books or apps on your phone.*

**Can anyone climb?**

Anyone can have a go! There are many climbing clubs now. You can learn through these or at an indoor climbing wall. Walls are safe places in which to learn and practise rock climbing or bouldering in all weathers. They are also great for meeting like-minded people. Bouldering used to be referred to as "pratting about" but now it has become a major sport in its own right. It is particularly popular with young people as you don't need much equipment, just a crash mat to land on if you fall off. It's sociable and family-friendly as

the climbs are short so you can combine climbing with other activities.

**Where else, other than the Peak District, do you like to climb?**

I like to go with friends to the Lake District, Scotland and Snowdonia for traditional climbing. The rock is different here and there are high mountains, both of which present me with a different set of challenges. The scenery in these places is fantastic and I also love the element of exploration. I've also really enjoyed climbing holidays with friends in Spain, Morocco, Turkey, Croatia, Italy, France and Greece (Kalymnos mainly). You can practise both traditional and sports climbing in these places. My stays abroad have been fantastic fun with the added bonus of great weather and superb food!

**What has been your worst climbing experience?**

A few years ago some friends and I got benighted in the Picos de Europa, Spain, so we couldn't get back to our tents. We had climbed to the top of a mountain that day but couldn't find the abseil descent. We failed to find it before nightfall so had no choice but to wait until morning. Supper that evening consisted of little more than a boiled sweet each. We sat in a snow-filled gulley all night trying to snatch some sleep. Even though it was June, it was very cold. Bad planning was to blame for this misfortune! Also I fell off a crag at Stanage in 2000 and fractured my heel. This caused me to lay off climbing for many months.

**What has been your best climbing experience?**

I can't think of one particular climb but I have enjoyed the multi-pitch routes I have climbed on limestone rock on the continent the most. In Croatia, for example, we did a 14-pitch route! This was the most rewarding and exciting.

**What is your ambition for future climbing?**

To continue for as long as possible!!

**Thank you, Steve.**

## GLOSSARY

**Traditional climbing** involves using only what the rock-face or mountain provides naturally i.e. crack lines, protuberances and ledges. The equipment a climber uses is removed after the ascent so that the crag is not damaged.

**Sports climbing** is more prevalent on the Continent where bolts are drilled into the rock-face and remain there permanently. A climber just has to clip a carabiner into the bolt and the rope passes through this.

**A single-pitch route** is an ascent using one rope length, usually around 12 metres (but longer ropes are available to allow for higher climbs).

**A multi-pitch route** is a series of single-pitch routes one after the other. You need this method to reach the top of higher rock-faces or the summit of a mountain



# CLIMBERS OF NETHER EDGE

# NICK STOKES AND

By Emma Whiteley

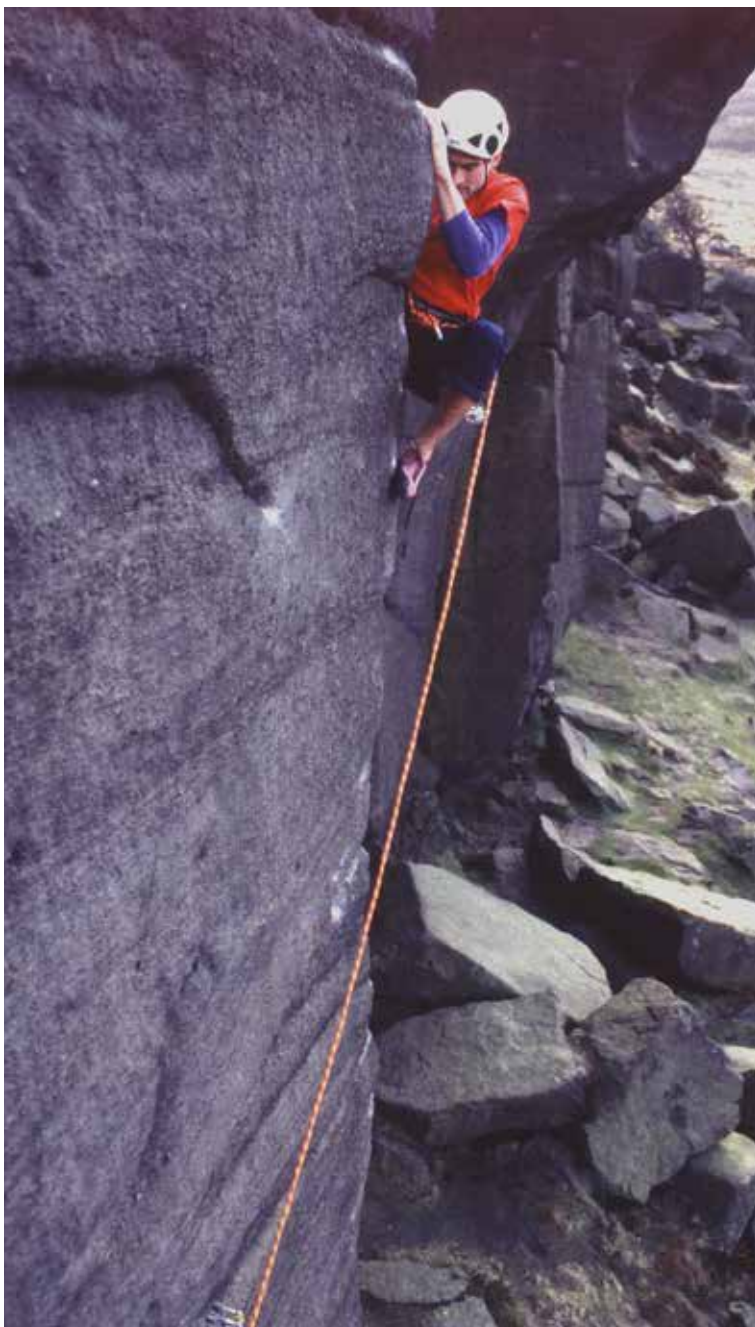
*Nick Stokes is a very talented climber who was brought up and still lives in Nether Edge. His two brothers, Neil and Mark, were also excellent climbers. I spoke to Nick about his experiences and about the developments he has seen in the sport during his life.*

*John Allen, Nick's main climbing partner, is a legend amongst climbers, not only because of his remarkable talent, but also on account of the ground-breaking routes he devised from the 1970's onwards on gritstone, one of the main types of rock in the Peak District. Around this time, the Peak District became a Mecca for climbers, even from as far away as America. This was largely due to the inspirational work of John Allen. John was tragically killed in a climbing accident in a quarry near Stony Middleton in May 2020 at the age of 61.*

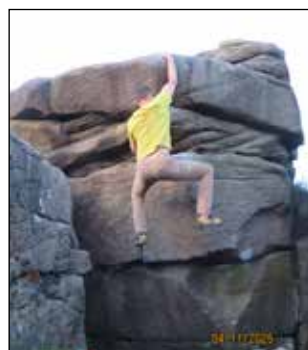
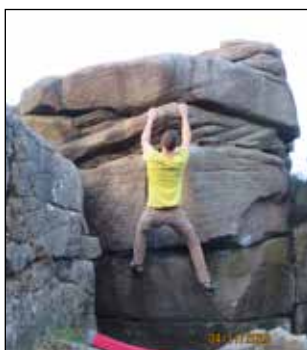
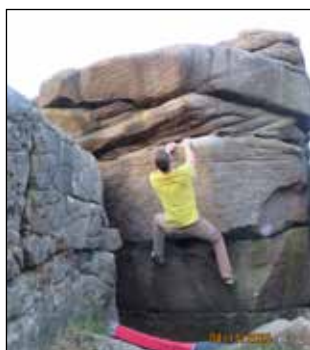
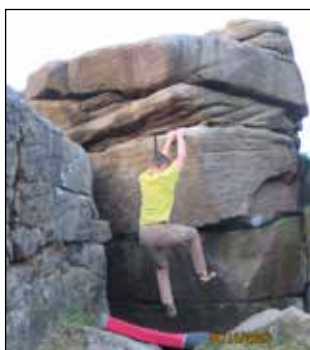
Nick Stokes was only nine or ten when he was taken out climbing on Stanage Edge by his brother, Neil, and their friend, John Allen. He was still wearing his school uniform but decided to tackle alone, without ropes, a very difficult route up a rock face. It was a "do or die" endeavour. You either reached the top or you died; there was no going backwards. Nick, having had very little previous climbing experience, succeeded in this huge challenge. The incredible adrenaline buzz that then overcame him led to his being hooked on climbing forever.

Three years later, Nick started climbing seriously with the same two people. They were initially taught by a family friend of John's, Les Gillott, but later it was John who coached Nick. He was such a brilliant tutor that, after only one day, Nick was climbing routes which were four grades higher than those he could manage before. He and John would frequently climb John's very hard, newly set-up routes without ropes, wedges or other protective equipment just for the fun of it. When they were not rock climbing in the Peak District, Nick, his brothers and their friends used to train on the stone wall in Brincliffe Edge Woods. Indoor climbing walls were not introduced until the 90's in Sheffield.

Nick recalls that in the 70's, traditional rock climbing was an esoteric sport which was not organised by clubs or other groups. This and the



Neil Bentley at Burbage South. A former Nether Edge resident. (Photo: Richard Heap)



David Phillips at Burbage Edge (Photos Nicky Erlen)



# D THE LATE JOHN ALLEN

individual nature of the sport meant it tended to attract misfits and renegades from society. Many of these were working-class lads whose company Nick really valued and who revelled in the danger and excitement of the sport. 'Real climbing' was usually followed by passionate discussions ("further training!") in the pub or café. Even though climbing was starting to become safer, these daredevils with their thirst for hard climbs and beer, often came to grief on mountains or high crags and Nick regularly lost good climbing friends when they were still very young.

Nick has climbed for half a century now. The sport has progressed enormously since his first adventures when he wore his school uniform and plimsolls. In the 80's and 90's the limestone areas of the Peak District were further developed as great climbing venues. From the Germans and French, people started to learn more systematic training methods and techniques became more scientifically-based. The clothing and equipment available to rock climbers and mountaineers became ever more sophisticated. Some Sheffield-based climbers developed and sold their own ranges to satisfy the growing market in this country for specific clothing and safety gear designed with climbers in mind. Sheffield residents Ben Moon and Rab Carrington are well-known, important examples of such innovators. All this meant climbers could take on more and more severe challenges with increased safety. Guide books and apps to show you where to climb, give diagrams of routes up a rock face and grade these routes according to difficulty, have become much clearer now and there are a number of serious periodicals about climbing. (On the subject of writing about climbing, it would be remiss not to mention the late, multi-talented Jim Curran, who lived in Nether Edge. He was a climber, film-maker, writer and painter. Having accompanied Chris Bonington on four Himalayan

expeditions, he wrote his biography and several other books on mountaineering.)

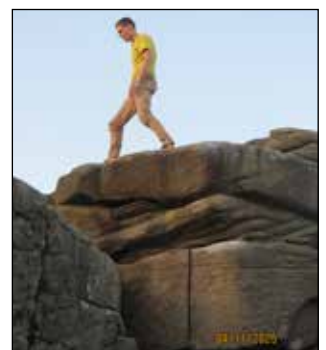
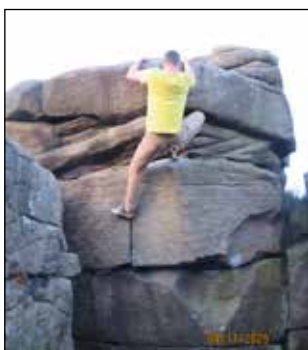
More recently bouldering has greatly increased in popularity especially among young people and Nick laments that many classic rock climbs in the Peak District and elsewhere are being abandoned as a consequence. In 2020, climbing became an Olympic sport, raising its profile and attracting more people to the sport.

Nick's worst experience by far was of being present when John Allen had his fatal accident. With John, Nick had had many terrifying but instructive experiences, for example being told, when he was halfway up a rock face, but frightened and hesitant: "Either do the route or

I'm going home and leaving you there!". However his favourite climbs were with John, his mentor. With his death, Nick lost his regular, trusted climbing partner and much of the magic went out of the sport. Nowadays when he is out climbing, the stunning light, sunsets and beautiful scenery not only in the Peak District but also on Spain's Costa Blanca and the Greek island, Kalymnos, provide immense joy. Nick enjoys drawing and painting as much as climbing in these places. Health problems mean he has had to curtail some of his climbing ambitions but he still loves the adrenaline rush and sense of achievement after succeeding on a hard climb.



*Seb Grieve, again at Burbage South. He lives on Grange Crescent, Sharrow. (Photo: Richard Heap)*



# MY LOVE OF CLIMBING

Sophie McGrann



Hi, I'm Sophie, I live in Sharrow with my husband and toddler. I fell in love with climbing when I was 19 at university in Liverpool and we used to travel to the Peak District at the weekends whenever we could to get our hands on the famous Sheffield grit. Since those days of dodgy camping expeditions and hungover trad, life has moved on a fair bit. The love though, is still there.

I had the opportunity to move to Sheffield in 2020 (what a year) so my husband and I packed the car and settled here. We went on to have our son and although I am not out on the grit quite as much as I would like, climbing has evolved and adapted with me.

I have swapped pre-dawn car trips down the Snake Pass for weekly trips to the Climbing Works (an institution) with some auto belaying at Awesome Walls whenever I have a bit more time and want to work on my stamina. My son, now nearly 2 and a half, has been spending his

Wednesdays with his Dad over at the Mini works in the Boulder Babies toddler group since he was around 18 months old and I am pleased to say he loves it too.

Although I am not doing as much outdoor trad as I would perhaps like, climbing is a sport that has supported me through all of life's twists and turns. It comes in waves, sometimes I can devote most of my spare time and energy to it and I get really into training and other times I have too much going on with work and family life and I manage about once every two weeks, but it doesn't matter to me. It is always there.

For training I have a Beast Maker 1000 at home that was my husband's 5th wedding anniversary present to me. It lives in the doorway between our dining room and kitchen and gets used by all the family. (My son insists on doing his "pull ups" then showing us his muscles and shouting

DSAAAAA like Adam Ondra.\*)

When I can take the boulder mat and steal away, I like Burbage South for a sunny solo potter. I love the valley there. The view from up top and the walk down through the ferns makes me feel like I am worlds away, not just ten minutes from my house. It's a great place for a toddler to walk and I look forward to the point sometime soon that I get him on The Pock Block doing the Cobra Mantle\*\*.

In summary I think climbing is something that I will do forever. I am in a bit of a coasting stage at the moment with a young family and busy job but I know that it will still be there for me when my new belay partner is big enough to be strapped to a sandbag and take a fall.. Another six months or so I reckon?!

\*Czech professional rock climber

\*\* Climb at Burbage

## POCKET PARK UPDATE



Members of the Pocket Park volunteer group have been working on the strip of land in front of Sainsburys adjacent to the David Pierce Pocket Park. Weeds were cleared, and some of the plants that were already in place were kept. A few donated plants, such as fuschia, bergenia and geranium were added. More plants will be added later, including ground cover and a few salvia plants, to tie in with those already in the David Pierce Pocket Park.

On the David Pierce Pocket Park, snowdrops and hellebores have been and gone, and daffodils and tulips and other spring bulbs planted in autumn are now in flower. There is funding left over from the David Pierce Pocket Park, so further planting is being planned around Nether Edge.

*The Pocket Park volunteer group meet on the first Saturday of the month, in the morning. If you would like to join the group (always welcome, as we don't know how many turn up for the sessions), please message Sandra Laja on 07752605676 to join the Whatsapp group or email, roz.reynolds@blueyonder.co.uk*



# STANDING TOGETHER IN NETHER EDGE

## SOLIDARITY IN ACTION WITH ASSIST



### Jake Clarke

On a bright Sunday in March, we had the joy of joining the Nether Edge Farmers' Market as one of their chosen charities. The streets were alive with a fresh spring feeling, lively conversations, and community spirit. From local stalls to live music and the backdrop of the Sheffield Half Marathon, the atmosphere was full of energy and positivity. We're so grateful to everyone who stopped by our stall, whether to donate, ask questions, or just say hello.

This wasn't our first visit to the Nether Edge Farmers' Market, and we hope it won't be our last. Over the years, the residents of Nether Edge have stood in solidarity with ASSIST, consistently donating their time, efforts, and money to our cause. We truly appreciate this support, as your generous contributions are integral to our work.

### From Destitution to Connection: What Your Support Makes Possible

ASSIST Sheffield stands with people who have been refused asylum and forced into destitution. The moment someone is refused asylum in the UK, they lose access to housing, basic income, and have no right to work. Many face immediate street homelessness and are pushed to the margins of society.

The money raised at the market will go directly towards providing material support to those harmed by a broken asylum system in the form of cash welfare payments to individuals with no other source of money or income, enabling people to cover essential needs such as food, basic necessities, and transportation - helping people maintain vital connections to healthcare, legal advice, and their communities. One of our clients recently told us: "Before ASSIST, people who knew I was homeless wouldn't even say 'hi' to me. Now I have a place to sleep, I can eat, cook my own food, wash myself, use the buses every day."

All donations to ASSIST play a crucial role in providing stable and safe housing, personalised one on one casework, and regular welfare payments. However, our work doesn't stop at survival. With your help, we create welcoming spaces across the city that reduce isolation and build solidarity. We empower people to rebuild their confidence, connect with others, and



feel part of something again. And we do this work with, not for, the people we support. Recognising their insight, leadership, and resilience.

### Thank You, Nether Edge

We want to say a huge thank you to the people of Nether Edge. Your generosity over the years has helped us build a different kind of Sheffield: one where safety, dignity and community are not conditional. Together, we are creating a city that chooses care over exclusion and connection over fear. We are so glad to be on this journey with you.

### Want to Do More?

- Continue to donate at <https://www.assistsheffield.org.uk/content/donate-assist>
- Sign up to our newsletter and stay connected
- Volunteer, fundraise, or reach out to collaborate on an upcoming event

# ARCHER LANE ALLOTMENT COMMUNITY GARDEN

**Author? --I'll check. P.**

Those of you who have been enjoying the recent sunshine and taking a walk around Brincliffe Woods might have noticed some progress on the patch of ground next to Archer Lane Allotment and Home Garden Society Pavilion. It's taken some time to take shape, but we are pleased that the first phase of our Community Garden is now complete and we're hoping for a glorious display of spring colour in the coming weeks.



This patch of land has been transformed from a scrappy, overgrown eyesore, thanks to funding from Awards for All (The National Lottery Community Fund), Sheffield City Council, Co-op Community Fund and Nether Edge Neighbourhood Group, plus a lot of hard graft from the committee, volunteers and supporters!

We started the process by asking Amy Langron from Hortus Collective to help us design a space that responded to the needs of our allotment holders, society members and local community. The result was a nature-friendly spot that offered a range of edible (and low-maintenance) plants, plus meadow flowers to attract bees and butterflies. We also wanted fencing to stop people falling off the steep edges, and raised beds for the local school groups who visit to plant their own seeds and come back to see them grow over time. The resulting plans were then made a reality by Simon and Hayden who brought a digger on site to landscape the space, clear the weeds and create steps and a path to make the area more accessible.

With help from volunteers, we cleared the site further, before asking for some additional planting guidance from Jane Elliott, a local landscape designer and allotment holder. Jane advised us on a first phase of planting using special wildflower turf from Sheffield's Pictorial Meadows. We

ordered two different varieties - Purple Haze for the more fertile side of the site and Patchwork Quilt for the drier side of the plot. Future plans include the addition of apple trees from Sheffield Fruit Trees, edible plants, climbing plants to grow up the trellis and a new sign.

Our annual Plant Sale is coming up on Saturday 10th May 10am – 12 noon. We'll also be holding an official opening as part of our Open Allotments event on Saturday 12th July between 10am and 2pm – more details to follow.

Archer Lane Allotment and Home Garden Society was founded in 1939. We have held an Annual Show every year since then, except one year it was cancelled as a result of flooding, and two were cancelled during the pandemic. We are a not-for-profit group of volunteers that aims to foster and facilitate the successful and enjoyable cultivation of allotment plots and gardens by providing a programme of community engagement activities including the running of the shop and a range of events and opportunities.

We support around 116 members, who pay a very reasonable subscription of just £10 a year for a range of benefits including access to the Shop, amazingly priced seeds through the King's Seeds catalogue, and regular newsletters. Membership is made up of around 50% allotment holders and 50% home gardeners. We have lots more activities planned to include further visits from local school children, an RHS event, a series of wellbeing walks and a pickling workshop.

To find out more about Archer Lane Allotment and Home Garden Society and to become a member, just visit [www.archerlaneallotments.org](http://www.archerlaneallotments.org) or pop into the Pavilion Shop any Sunday morning between 10am and 12 noon – we look forward to meeting you soon!

**Bannerdale Osteopaths**

**Happy Patient**

**Google Review**

I presented myself with painful feet after long walks. Not content to accept that it was a natural part of getting older, I am delighted to report that Pooja Guria set me on a path to a pretty speedy improvement within 5 sessions and one of those was taken up with a pulled back muscle (oh the relief!)

I like the app they use and did the homework Pooja set me (still do though not as often, and after 2 months was back to walking 15 miles across the Peaks without pain.

★★★★★



As part of an occasional series of interviews with professional women in Nether Edge we introduce...



# POOJA GURIA, OSTEOPATH

***Would you like to tell us about your early life and how you came to Sheffield?***

I'm Pooja Guria, an Osteopath working in lovely Nether Edge. I've been in Sheffield for about 5 years. When hearing my accent, people often ask me where I am from. "Do you want the long story, or the short one", I ask.

I'm proudly Indian, and grew up in a few different places.

I was born in Hong Kong after my parents migrated there from Mumbai, and lived there throughout my early childhood. In my early teens, my family relocated to Dubai. I finished my schooling there and that is where my parents and family currently live. I came to the UK for university in 2011, and 2 university degrees later, I arrived in Sheffield.

I'm very grateful to have grown up with so many different cultures around me.

***Would you briefly tell us what your job entails and how you came to be working in Nether Edge.***

After finishing studying Osteopathy in London, I moved to Sheffield for work.

I didn't know what to expect, but Sheffield definitely surprised me. Even though I moved here without ever visiting, it ended up being an important place. Five years later, I'm now

married, have a lovely friendship group, and have made a home for myself in Sheffield.

When I'm not traveling or finding new food spots, you can find me at Bannerdale Osteopaths working as a Senior Osteopath helping people get back to what they love doing.

What is an Osteopath you ask? And no, it's not just bones. Osteopaths are allied healthcare professionals who specialise in diagnosing and treating musculoskeletal conditions, focusing on treating the person as a whole.

***Have you had any difficulties as a woman in achieving your professional status, either here in the UK or elsewhere. If this was the case, do you think things have changed?***

The biggest challenge I've had is getting my foot in the door with finding a job in the UK, due to needing a visa.

Steven Ojari at Bannerdale Osteopaths kindly offered me a job, and to sponsor my visa, which meant not having to leave the UK. At the time I graduated, non-UK students were required to find visa-sponsored employment within 6 months of graduation, otherwise they would have to leave the UK.

Things have slightly changed since I graduated. There are many more employed roles in the UK for osteopaths that are offering visa sponsorships and even the NHS have started opening up roles

to osteopaths, rather than just physiotherapists. This is a great thing as there are not enough physiotherapists in the NHS, and osteopaths can help make up that shortfall.

***What is your impression of Nether Edge? Is there something you particularly like about it and is there something you would like to see change/improve?***

My first impression of Nether Edge was: "Wow these guys are friendly!".

Brincliffe Edge to Chelsea Park quickly became my favourite stroll. I even got called "Chicken" at the hairdressers, which I thought was the sweetest thing I ever heard.

I love how there are events like the Farmers' Market, which bring people together. There is a big sense of community in Nether Edge, and the people are very proud to be living here. I've volunteered with Family Voice, a charity based in Nether Edge, a couple of times and can see the commitment people have for the community.

Sheffield as a whole has surprised me. I grew up in big international cities, and even though I am a big city girl at heart, Sheffield and specifically Nether Edge makes someone who's not originally from here have a sense of belonging.

*Photo: Freepix*

# WHAT'S ON

in and around Nether Edge in May 2025

## UNION HOTEL

**Union Road, Nether Edge**

The popular **Union Monday night quiz** has been running for 17 years with quizmaster, John Barthram. Starts at 9pm, £2 per team. Free sandwiches, sausages, and sausage rolls. Free drinks for winners and a free meal prize for the best team. All are welcome.

On the first Wednesday of every month, 9pm Monthly Pop Quiz.

£2.00 per team and free food.

**New Book Club** Tuesday evenings.

Monthly, at Union Pub.

If you're interested in joining, please e-mail:

s7bookclub@yahoo.com for details.

## CAFÉ #9

**Thurs. 1st May - Austin Stambaugh**

Stambaugh's aesthetic is derived from his fascination with plain spoken speech, timeless standards, and terrifying compositions that hold a listener in suspense.

**Fri. 2nd May - Aaron Catlow and Kit Hawes**

One of the most exciting duos to emerge from the UK in recent times, Kit Hawes & Aaron Catlow combine heartfelt musicality, unparalleled virtuosity and vocal harmony.

**Sat. 3rd May - Nicola Farnon and the Mini Make Ups Band**

Widely recognized as one of the UK's classiest jazz and swing singers and double bassists, Nicola Farnon is embarking on an exciting new venture that showcases her versatility as both a musician and songwriter.

**Sun. 4th May - Jack Badcock**

Singer and guitarist, Jack Badcock is a hugely experienced performer, having toured throughout Europe, North America, Asia and Australia,

**Thurs. 15th May - Paul Armfield with special support Watkin A Sharkey & Chris Powell**

Now in his mid 50s Paul is a veteran performer with a warm, relaxed stage presence. He has been described as a songwriter's songwriter.

**Fri. 16th May - Jack Francis**

Jack is a singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist who has a unique brand of Soulful Folk.

**Sun 18th May - Hattie Whitehead**

Hattie is a powerful and distinctive songwriter, a fine guitarist, an inspired interpreter of classic songs, and a singer with a remarkable vocal and emotional range.

**Mon. 19th May - Hyuk Namkoong**

A chance to witness another mind blowing performance from the insanely talented classical pianist Hyuk Namkoong.



**Wed. 21st May - Boci**

Boci is a Bradford-born, Bristol-based violinist, songwriter, and vocalist, known for her pure, emotive voice and her ability to craft ethereal alt-folk soundscapes.

**Thurs. 22nd May - Jack Rutter**

Yorkshire folk singer Jack Rutter has established himself as one of the standout voices of the folk, roots and acoustic music scene in recent years.

**Sun 25th May - Last Birds**

With haunting harmonies and intricate guitar work, Last Birds' music is steeped in early country folk yet reflective of modern life.

**Tues. 27th - Terra Spencer**

Bad ideas, VCRs, crumbling factories, terrible therapists, hairy dogs, wrinkled shirts, French fries, questionable tattoos...all are fair game for Nova Scotian funeral director-turned-songwriter Terra Spencer.

**Wed. 28th May - Jacob and Drinkwater**

Their strongly folk influenced sound is full of vitality, dynamism, lush harmonies and surprising musical departures.

*Doors open at 7.00pm for 7.30 and tickets from WeGotTickets are £16.50 (unless specified separately) including booking fee and byo/ corkage fee should you want to bring alcohol.*

*Under 14s must be accompanied by an adult.*

## SHEFFIELD GENERAL CEMETERY

**Sun 4th May History Tour** 2.00 and 2.30 pm.

Meet the residents who shaped Sheffield's history, from Mark Firth and Samuel Holberry to the Cole Brothers and George Bassett, and many more. £5. Event starts at The Gatehouse, top of Cemetery Avenue, Sheffield, S11 8

**Sun. 11th May** 1.30 - 3.00 pm. Samuel Worth Chapel.

**May Death Cafe** A Death Cafe is a group directed discussion of death with no agenda, objectives or themes. It is a discussion group rather than a grief support or counselling session.

It is a free event but tickets need to be booked. Donations are always welcome and go towards the charitable aims of Sheffield General Cemetery Trust.

**Sun. 11th May** 7.30 for 8.00 pm. Samuel Worth Chapel

**iyatraQuartet** Alt-folk band, iyatraQuartet make original music rooted in ancient melodies and folk tales. £12 + booking fee. 16+ only.

**Thurs. 15th May** Doors 7.00, music 7.30 pm.

Samuel Worth Chapel **Sarah Jay Hawley and The Jaynes** Supported by sublime original music from solo artists – Kate Griffin, Millie Pye and Frazer Harris. £15 + booking fee. Over 18s only.

**Sat. 17th May** Doors 7.30, event 8.00 pm.

Samuel Worth Chapel.

**John Hegley** -The Adventures of Monsieur Robinet

Hegley is known as a poet and singer with a common and comedic touch, hence the quotation from The Observer, 'Awesomely mundane' £15 + booking fee. Suitable for most people over the age of 7.

**Sun. 18th May** Doors 7.00 for 7.30 pm.

**Wise Woman**

Blending ancient folk traditions with a bold contemporary flair, Wise Woman arrives with a heady collision of lush vocal harmonies, cinematic strings and 90s girl power.

*For further information about events contact sgct@gencem.org . All tickets sold online via TICKET SOURCE, no tickets on the door.*



## ST ANDREW'S PSALTER LANE CHURCH

**Psalter Lane S11 8YL**

**Monday mornings 10.00 - 12.00**

### **Knit and Natter**

Everyone is welcome to this very informal group. You don't have to be a knitter to come! Good coffee or tea and home-made cake.

**The Tuesday Café. Tuesdays 2 - 4pm**, Shirley House (Next door to MHA Southcroft. Parking in the church car park. Access by ramp).

A café for those living at home with memory loss or dementia and their carers and older people living alone. Hot drinks, cakes, biscuits, music, singing, and more. For further information please contact the Church Office: Telephone 0114 2678289

**Sat. 3rd May 9.30 - 12.30pm.** There will be a working party to **tidy the church grounds**. Everyone is very welcome to come and help and enjoy refreshments at about 11am

**Sat 10th May 10.00 am - 2.00 pm.**

**Repair Café.** Rather than putting them in the bin, bring items to see if they can be repaired. Lunch available.

## NETHER EDGE BOWLING CLUB

**Nether Edge Road S7 1RU**

### **Gloria Monday's Thursday Fundraiser**

**Thurs 8th May - Cowbird +Beki Dunn** and Gloria Monday. Fundraising for Rethink Mental Illness

[gloriamondayduo@gmail.com](mailto:gloriamondayduo@gmail.com)

## NETHER EDGE FOLK CLUB

**Nether Edge Bowling club**

**Wednesday evenings** at 7.30 pm Please note the new start time.

The club enjoys acoustic music in a wide variety of genres including traditional, roots revival, blues, jazz, country and Americana. It's a friendly community with beginners, experienced players, unaccompanied singers, instrumentalists and listeners all equally welcome.

There is no admission charge but everyone is asked to contribute £2 to the guest booking fund, apart from nights when there is a guest musician. [netheredgefolk.club](http://netheredgefolk.club) for more details

## WALKING NETBALL

**SHU Pearson Building, Broomgrove Road.**

**Thursdays 1 - 2pm** Lots of limbering up, fun activities (See England Netball website) and a short game. You don't have to be skilled or very agile; it's just great fun. £6 per session. Details: [whitechristie3@gmail.com](mailto:whitechristie3@gmail.com)

## LANTERN THEATRE

**Kenwood Park Road S7 1NF**

**Tues. 6th and Wed. 7th May 7.30 pm**

### **A Very Dark Imagination**

An isolated cottage in the Welsh countryside. A storm raging overhead. A mass murderer on the run from the near-by institute for the criminally insane. A sudden knock at the door...

£10 + booking fee. Suitable for 16+only.



**Sat. 10th May 7.30 - 10.15 pm.**

Celebrate the Legends of Folk, Roots & Americana with **Julia Waldron & The Orchestrators** £17.50 + booking fee.

*Book all shows at [ticketsource.co.uk](http://ticketsource.co.uk)*

## THE STAG'S HEAD

**15 Psalter Lane S11 8YN**

**Quiz every Monday evening from 8pm.**

**Quiz every Monday evening from 8pm.**

Everyone is welcome at this popular quiz which has been running for a number of years. It's £1 to enter and there's a maximum of 6 people in a team. The quiz usually lasts for 1½ - 2 hours. Free food is provided at half time for quizzers. All quiz entry fees go to two charities - St Luke's and Cavendish Cancer Care.

## BRITISH CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

**Monthly meetings** are held at Shirley House, Psalter Lane. 7.30pm, usually 2nd Friday of each month, but our June meeting is Friday 20th. Free admission; refreshments, usually plant sales.

See <https://sheffield.bcss.org.uk>

## GROVE RD ENVIRONMENT GROUP

**16th May - Green Supper and Plant Sale**

will be held on Friday May 16th at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Grove Road S7 2HB

The annual plant sale including vegetables, flowers and houseplants, will start at 6.30pm and the supper will start at 7pm. £18.50

*Details and booking at [eventbrite.co.uk](http://eventbrite.co.uk). bees-the-birds-byo-green-supper*

## LIVE AT SAM'S

**Fri. 2nd May** at St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church 7.30 for 8.00 pm.

### **Kerr Fagan Van Eykan**

Three renowned performers, each passionately fond of the folk, traditional and composed music of these isles and beyond. £18.50

**Wed. 7th May.** House Concert 7.30 for 8.00

**Tom Kitching and Marit Fält** -Where there's Brass. Stories old and new interwoven with a specially composed suite of music, underpinned by Tom's long term accompanist, the brilliant Nordic mandola player Marit Fält £15

**Sun. 11th May** House Concert 7.30 for 8.00

**Iona Fyfe Trio** - Aberdeenshire folk singer, Iona Fyfe, has become one of Scotland's finest singers, rooted deeply in the singing traditions of the North East of Scotland. £15

**Fri. 23rd May** House Concert 7.30 for 8.00

**Janice Burns and Jon Doran** - An award-winning Anglo-Scottish duo who came together after discovering a shared love of traditional music and songs that tell vivid stories about the nature of life and our place in the world. £15

*[info@liveatsams.co.uk](mailto:info@liveatsams.co.uk)*

## COMMON GROUND COMMUNITY CENTRE

**Woodstock Road S7 1GR**

### **Ammi's Kitchen Community Lunch.**

**Fri. 9th and 23rd May 12 - 2pm.** All are welcome. Eat in only. Free if on benefit or pay as you feel.

### **Ammi's Kitchen Takeaway**

**2nd and 16th May**

Order before 5.00pm on the Tuesday before the Takeaway.

*[www.ammiskitchensheffield.org](http://www.ammiskitchensheffield.org)*

## BOTANICAL GARDENS

**Sat. 17 May 11.00-3.00**

**Sun. 18th May 11.00 - 2.00**

**Hardy Plant Society** - South Pennine Group A large selection of plants will be on sale, all at very reasonable prices.

Please bring your own bags to help reduce the use of plastics. *Further details:* [www.southpenninehps.webador.co.uk](http://www.southpenninehps.webador.co.uk)

## ARCHER LANE ALLOTMENT AND HOME GARDEN SOCIETY

**Sat. 10th May 10.00 - 12.00**

**Plant sale.** Please bring your own bags.

Abbeydale Road



Final farewells  
in familiar places



## Pets at Rest home euthanasia vet

I'm Rob, a local vet and resident of Nether Edge. You might see me out and about in my electric car, visiting pet owners in our community. I run an independent business that comes to your home to support with end of life care. Saying goodbye at home, ensures your companion feels safe and calm, surrounded by loved ones. You can find out more on my website or by using the QR code to visit my Facebook page.



07866 243673

[www.petsatrestvet.com](http://www.petsatrestvet.com)



JEWELS PROMOTIONS AND EDGE STREET LIVE PRESENT

# HENRY & BRIAN NORMAL BILSTON

**SATURDAY 24 MAY**  
**THE OCTAGON**  
**SHEFFIELD**

TICKETS:

[PERFORMANCEVENUES.GROUP.SHEF.AC.UK/WHATS-ON](http://PERFORMANCEVENUES.GROUP.SHEF.AC.UK/WHATS-ON)  
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